

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 PA-04

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R 181650Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6961

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USIA FOR IEE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S CALLS: V.N. SOFINSKIY

1. I PAID A COURTESY CALL MARCH 18 ON MFA PRESS SECTION CHIEF V.N. SOFINSKIY. ALSO PRESENT WERE COUNSELOR V.N. KELIN, WHO DURING THE MEETING WAS IDENTIFIED AS NEWLY RESPONSIBLE FOR AMERICAN AFFAIRS, AND THIRD SECRETARY A.K. VOZNIKOV.
2. THE 50-MINUTE MEETING WAS CARRIED OUT IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE, WITH OCCASIONAL BANTER BALANCING A NUMBER OF SERIOUS POINTS ON THE CARE AND HANDLING OF AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS AND PREPARATIONS FOR BOTH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENTIAL VISITS.
3. SOFINSKIY VOLUNTERED THE NOTION OF HIS MEETING WITH ALL AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS IN EARLY APRIL, WITH EMBOFFS, PRESENT, TO DISCUSS PROJECTS OF INTEREST THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED FOR THE PERIOD BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. IA APPLAUDED THE IDEA AND WE OFFERED TO SURVEY THE CORRESPONDENTS FOR A LIST OF SUBJECTS TO BE SENT TO SOFINSKIY BEFOREHAND.
4. FOR BOTH VISITS, SOFINSKIY REQUESTED AS FAR AHEAD AS

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POSSIBLE ALL AVAILABLE DETAILS ON ACCOMPANYING PRESS AND

ARRANGEMENTS. HE NOTED THAT THE TOURIST SEASON IS IN FULL SWING BY JUNE. I SAID THE REQUEST WOULD BE PASSED ON. PLEASE ADVISE AS POSSIBLE.

5. SOFINSKIY AND KELIN ALSO LOOKED AHEAD TO THE APOLLO-SOYUZ FLIGHT IN 1975 AND SUGGESTED WITHOUT SPECIFICS THAT PRESS REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE EXTENSIVE AND SHOULD BE STUDIED. I AGREED.

6. IN NOTING WHAT HE CALLED MY GOOD BEGINNING, WITH IMMEDIATE RECEPTION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, SOFINSKIY ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN AWAY AS QTE MISUNDERSTANDING UNQTE THE EMBASSY'S INFORMATION FROM MFA THAT ONLY ONE OFFICIAL SUPREME SOVIET PHOTOGRAPHER WOULD BE PRESENT FOR THE ACCREDITATION CEREMONY BUT NO SOVIET OR AMERICAN PRESS. HE SAID THAT LONG-STANDING TRADITION CALLED FOR ONLY SOVIET PRESS TO BE PRESENT ON SUCH OCCASION.

7. I BROUGHT UP SEVERAL SPECIFIC POINTS ON IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR CORRESPONDENTS, WHICH WOULD BE IN OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS AND IN ALL CASES BE RECIPROCAL. THOSE INCLUDED EASING OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, PERHAPS ALONG LINES APPROVED FOR DIPLOMATS AS OF APRIL 5; MORE TRAVEL AND STORY OPPORTUNITIES; AND MULTIPLE EXIT/ENTRY VISAS IN RESPONSE TO A FROMAL REQUEST FIRST MADE ALMOST A YEAR AGO. SOFINSKIY LINKED FOR THE FIRST TIME THE LAST REQUEST WITH QTE NECESSARY LEVEL UNQTE OF PROGRESS AT CSCE TALKS IN GENEVA, MAKING THE POINT AFTER ASKING MY AIDE AND HIS NOTE TO TAKE NOTES. HE ALSO SAID SUCH VISAS WOULD HAVE TO BE GRANTED TO ALL CORRESPONDENTS AT THE SAME TIME, AND MADE THE POINT ON TRAVEL THAT AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT PARTICIPATION IN MFA-SPONSORED GROUP TRIPS WAS POOR.

8. I RAISED THE COLLINGS VISA TURNDOWN, NOTING THAT NEWSWEEK, WHICH HAD TWO MEN IN 1970, NOW WOULD HAVE NONE FOR SOME TIME. I NOTED THAT ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING CORRESPONDENTS SHOULD BE RECIPROCAL. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD. EARLIER HE SAID THAT COLLINGS WAS TURNED DOWN ON HIS OWN MERITS (OR LACK OF SAME) AND THAT NEWSWEEK SHOULD HAVE A NEW CANDIDATE APPLY, PERMITTING THE INFERENCE THAT MFA WOULD ACT PROMPTLY IF ANOTHER JOURNALIST'S NAME WERE PROPOSED IN THE PLACE OF COLLINGS.

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9. I ALSO MENTIONED OUR INTEREST IN HAVING PERHAPS TWO AMERICAN POOL CORRESPONDENTS ACCOMPANY SECRETARY DENT ON HIS PROJECTED FLIGHT TO KAMAZ APRIL 8. SOFINSKY SAID MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE PROTOCOL SECTION SHOULD HANDLE THIS MATTER.

10. WE PARTED ON THE SAME GOOD-NATURED NOTE THAT CHARACTERIZED THE CALL, LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PROMISED APRIL MEETING WITH

THE CORRESPONDENTS.
STOESSEL

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, (SOFKINSKIY, V N)
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